



Volume XXXIII No. 2

Brentwood, New Hampshire

February 2009

Candidates for Town and School Offices

The following filings for Town and School Offices were made during the required period from Jan. 21 – Jan. 30:

Office Selectmen
Position Available 2 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **Jane Byrne**
Kevin Johnston
David Menter

Office Cemetery Trustees
Position Available 1 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **Douglas Finan**

Office Library Trustees
Positions Available 2 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **Robert Gilbert**

Office Municipal Budget Committee
Positions Available 2 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **William Faria**
Tracie May

Office Planning Board
Positions Available 2 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **Charles Pratt**

Office Town Clerk & Tax Collector
Position Available 1 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **Phyllis Thompson**

Office Trustees of the Trust Funds
Position Available 1 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **No one filed**

Office School Board – Brentwood Dist.
Positions Available 2 for 3 years
1 for 1 year
Candidate(s) **Elizabeth Faria** (for 1 year)
No one filed (for 3 years)

Office Clerk – Brentwood School District
Position Available 1 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **Phyllis Thompson**

Office Moderator – Brentwood Schl. Dist.
Position Available 1 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **Douglas Cowie**

Office Auditor, Brentwood School District
Positions Available 1 for 1 year
Candidate(s) **No one filed**

* Office Cooperative School District Board
Positions Available 1 from each town for 3 years
Candidate(s) Exeter

Townley Chisholm
Roy Morrisette

Newfields
Mike Grant

Stratham
Patty Lovejoy

* Office Co-op. School Dist. Moderator
Position Available 1 for 1 year
Candidate(s) **Charles F. Tucker**

* Note: voters from all towns in the District
may vote for these candidates.

Candidates' Night, sponsored by the *Newsletter*, will be in the Cross Room at the Town Offices on Wednesday, February 18, starting at 7:30 p.m. We hope many of you will come to meet, hear and talk to the candidates.

TOWN OF BRENTWOOD On the Web: www.brentwoodnh.gov**TOWN CLERK and TAX COLLECTOR:**

Phone: 642-6400 X 14
 Monday–Thursday 9:00-4:30
 Tuesday evening 7:00-9:00
 Friday 8:30-4:00
 Saturday 9:00-12:00

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Phone: 642-6400 X 10 Fax: 642-6310
 Monday–Thursday 8:00-4:30
 Friday 9:00-1:00

MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARY

Phone: 642-3355 E-mail: bartlettlibrary@comcast.net
 On the Web: www.brentwoodlibrary.org
 Monday 2-7 Thursday 9-5
 Tuesday 9-5 Friday 9-1
 Wednesday 9-5 Saturday 9-1
 Story Hours: Tuesday 10:30 and 2:00 Wednesday 10:30

SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

Phone: 642-3487
 Swasey on the Web: <http://scs.sau16.org>
 SAU 16 on the Web: <http://www.sau16.org>

February Recycling Pick-up Dates:

February 3, 4
 February 17, 18

Notes from the Town Clerk

- Just a reminder that boat registrations can be done at the Town Clerk's Office.
- We take only cash or checks in payment for transactions, and if registering a motor vehicle, two checks are needed.
- Absentee ballots will be available in the middle of February.
- Dog licenses for 2009 are in!

Phyllis Thompson, Town Clerk

Waste Tonnage Figures

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Tons, mixed solid waste	115.18	149.24
Tons, recycled goods	24.48(17.5%)	23.55(13.6%)

Brentwood Fire Monthly Responses

The Brentwood Fire Department responded to 19 fire and 23 ambulance emergencies, along with 7 non-emergency calls for a total of 49 responses, during the period of January 1st to the 23rd, 2009.

Lieut. A. Prina

Information from the Supervisors of the Checklist

Saturday, Feb. 28 - Supervisors will be in session at the Town Office 11:00-11:30am. It will be the last day to accept additions and corrections to the Voter Checklist prior to Election Day March 10.

New residents may register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours. New residents may also register to vote on Election Day at the polls.

Reminder: Residents must be registered voters in order to vote at the School District Meeting March 7, Election Day March 10 and Town Meeting March 12.

The Voter Checklist is posted on the town website and Supervisors' sessions are also on the website.

*Mary Clancey for the
 Supervisors of the Checklist*

The Food Pantry in Brentwood

The Food Pantry for the Town of Brentwood is located at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 197 Middle Road in Brentwood. Non-perishable food items are available for any who have need. If you would like to visit the food pantry, please call Rev. Kim McKerley at the church. The number is 778-3189.

THE BRENTWOOD NEWSLETTER

Published 11 times a year by the Brentwood Newsletter Committee,
 Brentwood, New Hampshire. Circulation 1,190
 Linda Rousseau, Editor 772-4534
 Marion Arkell, Treasurer 772-6314 Ann Chamberlain, 642-8758
 Jim Clark, 580-1012

Business Card Directory: \$20 per insertion, available in April, September & December issues.
 Business Article: \$100 half page, \$200 full page, available in any issue.

Deadline for March Issue: Friday, Feb. 20

Mail or bring your articles to Linda Rousseau, 90 Prescott Road, Brentwood, NH 03833,
 or e-mail to lindarou@rcn.com

Posting of Agendas & Legal Notices

In 2008 the requirements of RSA 91-A:2 regarding the posting of public meetings were changed to include a Town's website as one of the 2 legal posting locations.

Therefore, effective February 1, 2009 several town boards and committees including the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Budget Committee, Fire Station Building Committee and Conservation Commission will no longer be posting their meeting notices/public hearings at the Library Bulletin Board but will post them on the Town website instead -- www.brentwoodnh.gov.

Notices will continue to be posted on the bulletin boards inside and outside of the Town Office as well.

Julie Stevens, Town Administrator

Update on the Brentwood Tax Assessment Cyclical Data Collection Project

The Brentwood Cyclical Data Collection project is entering the first phase of a 2+ year process to ensure accurate data is represented on each owner's property assessment record. Jim Michaud, the Town's tax assessor contractor hired by the Brentwood Board of Selectmen, will be in town measuring and listing property starting in December of 2008 and continuing through 2010.

Jim has photo identification issued by, and his vehicle information on record at, the Brentwood Police Department. The data collection will start on the Rt. 125/Epping town line and proceed easterly to the Epping/Exeter/Brentwood town lines and move southerly from there.

It is necessary that property owners please allow the data collectors to inspect the interior as well as conduct exterior measurements of all buildings on the site. If no one is home at the time the data collector arrives he will leave a yellow call back card with a phone number for the property owner to call to schedule an interior inspection.

Should you have any questions or concerns please call the Brentwood Board of Selectmen's Office at: 642-6400, ext. 10. Thank you for your cooperation.

Board of Selectmen

Notice from the Selectmen

We, the members of the Board of Selectmen, were saddened to recently receive a letter of resignation from our Recreation Director, Jessica Pimental.

Jessica has been with us since March and has proven to be an exceptional employee; demonstrating organizational skills, communication skills, patience, creativity, and efficiency. Jessica started the job full of excitement and enthusiasm at the prospect of working with parents, coaches, and volunteers; creating new programs and enhancing existing programs; and facing the challenges of reorganizing the department. While she has enjoyed working with those residents who have been so helpful as volunteers, coaches, and referees; and those parents who have provided good advice and suggestions, she has been attacked and criticized by others who can not seem to abide by the rules, find fault with her for matters outside of her control, have expectations of her availability during non-work hours, and raise their voices at her for issues that are not her responsibility. She has come to realize that there is a shortage of dedicated volunteers in Brentwood.

When the recreation department was initially established it was built on volunteerism. Brentwood is a relatively small town and can not keep up with the offerings of larger communities in the area, such as Exeter. The Recreation Director's position is a part-time position and requires the assistance of volunteers. We have come to the realization that in order for this Town to continue to offer recreation programs, some serious changes are going to have to be made and it is up to you, the residents of Brentwood, to determine which path it will follow. The options as we see them are:

- To change the recreation director's position to full-time, thus increasing the town's budget.
- To make some serious reductions/changes to the programs currently in place.
- To continue with a part-time director and establish a larger pool of volunteers who can assist with the responsibilities. This may include **mandatory** involvement by all parents with children participating in athletic programs.

We will be working closely with the Recreation Commission during the next month to determine the best course of action to take. We would welcome constructive input from any residents by email to selectmen@brentwoodnh.gov or in writing to:

Board of Selectmen
1 Dalton Road

Sincerely,
Brentwood Board of Selectmen

Report from Your State Representative

In January House committees began holding public hearings on the bills assigned to them. Anyone who wants to can testify. As early as within a week but considerably later if a bill is controversial or highly complex, each committee that holds a hearing on a bill (or sometimes more than one hearing) will vote for or against it. The vote is taken in executive session which, like a hearing, is open to the public, but there is no testimony. Whether receiving a favorable or unfavorable vote ("ought to pass" or "inexpedient to legislate" in legislative jargon), the bill will go to the entire House, which will uphold or decide against the committee's judgment. As I did last year, I will report to you as bills of importance are acted upon.

Several Brentwood residents have called or emailed me recently to express their thoughts on pending bills: one providing that horses be licensed (reacting to horse owners' opposition to the bill, the sponsor withdrew it), another levying certain requirements on home schooling. I appreciate hearing from constituents regarding their concerns and will respond as best I can.

According to one nationwide survey, New Hampshire ranks at the top of certain quality of life indicators: first among the 50 states in favorable tax climate; first in standard of living (lowest poverty rate); second in child and family well-being; second in lowest crime rate; first in "most livable." These are laudable rankings, but they need to be viewed in the context of certain realities. While the New Hampshire unemployment rate of 4.6% is well below the national rate of 7.2 percent (as of December), the 4.6% for NH represents a rise from 3.4% in December 2007. In terms of people, this translates into 33,830 unemployed, an increase of 8,540 during the year. The rise in unemployment could, according to a forecast by a UNH economics professor, continue until mid-2010, when the rate is forecast to reach 7.4%. (Of course, any prediction on the economy is chancy.)

In short, the recession is impacting New Hampshire in a big way. Rising unemployment, sluggish business activity, and the decline in the real estate market all have contributed to a steep drop in state revenues from such taxes as those on real estate transfers, business enterprise and profits, and interest and dividends. Because of continued strong opposition to any income or sales tax and with scant possibilities for any other new substantial sources of revenue, the only likely way for achieving the constitutionally mandated balancing of the budget by June 30 is through budget cuts.

The governor has slashed expenditures by about \$150 million and the legislature is considering further cuts. A total reduction of some \$250 million is not out of

the question. Highway repairs and maintenance, aid to higher education, and health services are among the state programs that will take heavy hits. To some extent these may be softened, for New Hampshire will benefit from the federal financial stimulus program when it goes into effect. For instance, currently Medicaid costs are borne 50-50 by the federal and by the NH state government. The Obama administration's economic stimulus package plan will raise the federal share and commensurately lower the state's share. For each percentage point of change, the state will gain \$13 million. The state will also get some federal money for capital projects, like highway repairs. It remains to be seen what the total inflow of federal funds will be from the stimulus plan.

On January 14, I testified before the House Education Committee, which held a hearing on my bill that will, as the bill's title states, "require the state board of education to adopt rules implementing a financial literacy component to be taught to all high school pupils as part of the high school economics course." As I have written previously (in my blog), I believe it imperative that the basics of personal financial literacy be taught to all our high school students, which is not now the case. At the hearing, several others testified, all in favor of the bill. The next step will be for the Education Committee to have an executive session on the bill and vote it up or down.

Don Petterson

Phone: 772-4519

e-mail: donpetterson@gmail.com

Blog: <http://staterreport.blogspot.com>

A Thank-You Note

1/19/2009

Richard and I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the community of Brentwood for the wonderful shelter made available to the people of our town during the ice storm of 2008.

We want to send a special thank-you to the Fire Department, the Police Department, and all others that donated their time and hospitality to those in need.

Along with hot food and a warm place to sleep, our hearts were deeply touched by the kindness of a small community coming together during a difficult time.

We can't find the words to express our gratitude, as there truly aren't any to define our feelings.

Richard and I are blessed to be a part of this community and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Most sincerely,

Susan and Richard Currier
South Road

The Fire Station Proposal

Since last year's town meeting, the Fire Station Building Committee has worked diligently during numerous meetings to develop a revised plan that addresses many of the issues that have been voiced in previous years. The Committee has grown to include several other residents who had expressed an interest in participating in the process. They have considered several options and reviewed many proposals ranging in price from \$2.2 million to \$1.695 million. The result is a design for a structure that has been reduced in size as well as price. This is the third year an article for a new fire house will appear on the warrant, and through the efforts of the building committee the price has been reduced from \$2.3 million in 2007 to the \$1.695 million we're looking at this year.

Our existing fire house is privately owned and is in an advanced state of disrepair. If a new fire station is not approved, we will be forced to spend money on repairs to a building we don't even own in order to keep it safe and somewhat compliant; or may have to lease some sort of temporary housing for the trucks if not the Fire Department itself. We are writing to express our support of the article for the construction of a new fire house at a cost of \$1,695,000 which will appear in this year's warrant.

While the price tag may sound a bit overwhelming in these difficult economic times, when you look at the tax impact it will have, it becomes a bit more manageable. For example, the projected impact for a home valued at \$300,000 is \$112 for the first year (2010), and less in subsequent years. This figure computes to 29 cents per day, less than half the cost of a 75 cent newspaper!!

We hope you will join us in supporting this article and encourage all residents to attend the bond hearing for the construction of a new fire station that will take place on Saturday, February 7 at 9am at the Swasey School.

Sincerely,

Brentwood Board of Selectmen

Brentwood Seniors

The Brentwood Seniors will meet **Wednesday, February 25 at the Community Center**, 190 Rte. 125. Members are encouraged to arrive between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. The business meeting will begin at 11:30, and an International potluck luncheon will be served after the business meeting. Members will be called to confirm what dish they are bringing for the luncheon.

After lunch there will be a musical program by the King Sisters, who presented a lively, polished and much appreciated performance last year. For more information or questions, call Joe Gancarz, president, 642-5830.

SAU 16 Strategic Planning Committee Needs YOU

SAU 16 is embarking on a Strategic Planning process, and is looking for interested volunteers from the towns of Brentwood, Exeter, Stratham, Newfields, East Kingston, and Kensington. Our goal is to submit the completed document to the Joint Boards by June, 2010. We will be setting the course of the organization for the next five years. The Steering Committee has started meeting and has settled upon the first five Focus Areas (subcommittees). They are Communication, Curriculum and Assessment, Special Education, Governance, and Fostering Community Involvement.

If you have an interest in supporting excellence in education and diverse and relevant programs in the SAU 16 schools, please consider volunteering. We need people with children in the schools and without, and people with a wide range of talents. Ralph Adler has agreed to be the Steering Committee member from Brentwood.

Please contact the SAU 16 office to volunteer (phone number 775-8653) or speak to Ralph Adler or to one of the other Steering Committee members -- Kathy McNeil, Exeter; Stacey Penna, East Kingston; Alice Mower, Kensington; Suzanne Foster, Newfields; Nathan Merrill, Stratham; David Miller, COOP board; Sally Oxnard, community representative. Thanks -- see you there!!

Sally Oxnard
Exeter, 772-6265

Swasey Parent Faculty Group

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Swasey School Library. We look forward to seeing you there. There will be a drawing for a fabulous gift basket at the meeting. Congratulations to our January winner, Heather Clark!

Box Tops -- we are well on our way to earning enough money to purchase a new sound system for the school so keep clipping those box tops!!! Send them into school with your child or drop them off at the Bartlett Library.

Over 80 children signed-up for the family event hosted by Action Kids Athletics on Saturday, January 24. It was another fun night out for our kids. A big thank you goes to Action Kids Athletics! Details for our next Brentwood Community Night will go home with students soon.

For more information about the Parent Faculty Group or any of the events we sponsor please visit our website <http://swaseypfg.pbwiki.com/>

Pam Carr

Friends of the Library

Thanks to those who made purchases at our Christmas Craft Fair. Crafters who participate in this fair give a percentage of their earnings to The Friends, which we in turn use to purchase new books for the children's room. We are pleased to tell you that we made a profit of over \$500 and our librarians have made some excellent selections for your little ones, so be sure to come in and see what's new.

We'd also like to thank all of you who purchased tickets for our annual Nantucket Basket Raffle donated by Dave Gibson, as well as the gorgeous Gingerbread House, carefully crafted by the Kennish family. Aren't we lucky to have such generous townspeople willing to donate these items? Their handiwork is very much appreciated.

The next Friends of the Library meetings will be on **Thursday, February 5 and Thursday, March 5, both at 9:30 am.** Why don't you stop by, take a seat and find your place among the Friends? We would welcome some new faces and some fresh ideas. If you would like to receive an email reminder about upcoming meetings, please send an email to marybartlett76@yahoo.com and you will be added to our email list.

On **Thursday, February 19, 7pm** the Garneaus will be back to the library to talk about their trip to Tuscany. I look forward to viewing their pictures and learning more about this beautiful region of Italy.

February vacation will soon be upon us. We have two wonderful events planned, both sponsored by our generous Benefactor. On **Tuesday, February 24**, our own **basket weaver Dave Gibson** will be teaching his art to children in grades 2 and up. Attendees must pre-register for this workshop and present a \$5 deposit. The deposit is simply to hold your child's space, and will be returned to you when your child arrives for the class. There will be two sessions – one from 9 to 10:30, the other from 11-12:30. There will only be 10 children allowed in each session.

On **Thursday, February 26**, professional cartoonist Dan Pettiglio will teach children grades 4 and older about **comics and cartooning**. You must sign up for this workshop in advance. The workshop will run from 10 am to 1 pm. Please send your child with lunch and a drink.

If these workshops don't interest you consider taking out one of our passes. It might be a great time to head down to Boston, as Massachusetts schools will not be on vacation the same week as our children. Swing by the library and look at the files on all the different passes we offer.

If you haven't yet responded to our annual Membership Drive letter, we gladly accept donations all through the year. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are tax-deductible, something to remember as tax season draws near.

This may seem a little early to mention, but I am truly excited to tell you we will again be hosting The Brentwood Gathering at the Brentwood Community Center in 2009, on Saturday, October 24. If you wish to be a part of this incredible craft fair, you can call the Library at 642-3355 and leave your name and contact information. We are revamping our application form and will be sending them off to interested crafters soon.

While you are at the Library finding books, movies, pass programs or enjoying one of our events, please take a look at The Friends' merchandise. Our fleece blankets will keep you warm where ever you go and our canvas carry bags are great for books as well as groceries. Don't forget our cookbooks for a warm winter meal or a pack of note cards for those holiday thank you notes.

Michelle Siudut, Publicity

Ordering Spring Trees, Plants, Shrubs

The rakes and spades are hanging idle, and spring seems so very far away. You needn't wait months to indulge your love of growing things. Call to request a copy of the Rockingham County Conservation Districts Spring 2009 Tree, Shrub and Plant Brochure. Check out our new offerings (*some of which are not available from others*) along with the old favorites. Picture how your landscape will look with some new plants. Think about adding some fruit trees around the yard and small berry plants in the garden. Did you know that blueberry bushes make a very nice deciduous hedge while supplying you with some wonderful berries during the summer months along with the bright red fall foliage? We are again offering the popular all season berry collections at a 15% discount. All stock offered in our brochure is suitable for use in plantings throughout Rockingham and neighboring counties.

When selecting species for sale, we put great emphasis on species' adaptability to environmental conditions (climate, soils, etc.) present in our locale. Consideration is given to plant material for landscape beautification, home gardening, wildlife benefits and erosion control attributes. Call today to receive a copy of our new spring brochure, look it over, place your order, then sit back, relax by the fire, spring planting will be here before you know it.

Call 679-2790 or email RCCD@TTLC.NET giving your name and address, and a brochure will be mailed right out. You can also check out our website www.rockinghamccd.org for additional information and download your brochure and order form.

Charlie Currier

Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD)
110 North Road, Brentwood. 679-2860. rccd@ttlc.net

Brentwood Recreation News

Red Cross Classes in Brentwood

Two classes are upcoming, with more to be added: **Adult First Aid, Feb. 3, 9am-1:30pm** and an **Adult CPR class on March 11, 9am-1:30pm**. Register online at www.greatbayredcross.org or by calling 603-766-5440; discount if taking more than one course.

Foxwoods Trip

We'll be heading out for our Spring Foxwoods trip soon! The deluxe coach will be leaving from the Community Center on **Monday, March 16 at 7:30am** sharp and returning around 7:30pm. As in the past, cost is \$35 per person and includes: coffee/doughnuts on the way down and water/snack on the way back; free \$15 bet; free buffet lunch. Please mail in your signup information with check, or contact Jessica to sign up. We need to have a minimum of 33 people **signed up by February 23** to confirm the bus!

Youth Baseball

Anyone up for helping coordinate baseball this year? We could use help with taking registrations, ordering shirts, handling sponsors, and other tasks. Call Jessica ASAP if you wish to help.

Deadlines for signing up for the various youth baseball teams are as follows:

(Due to tremendous feedback about the age cutoff that we were following, which is in April, we have gone back to the date that the school uses as a cutoff for school registrations, September 30, for the younger Brentwood teams). **T-ball (5yo by 9/30/08), Rookie (6 by 9/30/08), Farm (7 by 9/30/08) and Softball (set by the league, this cutoff is 8yo by 1/1/09):** sign up with the Brentwood Rec, applications available outside the office or online. **DEADLINE IS Monday, FEBRUARY 16 at 3:00pm.** No teams will be added after this date, and late signups will only be accepted if a team is still in need of players *with a late fee. Don't wait to sign up, please be proactive and sign up ahead of the deadline so that unforeseen circumstances won't lead to a late signup.

Little League with the Exeter Junior Baseball League (9-12yo by April 30, 2009). Information can be found on their website: www.exeterbaseball.org. **Deadline is Saturday, Feb. 21** to register for the evaluations. A link can be found on their website for the **Babe Ruth League** (13-19yo by April 30, 2009), which Brentwood will now be a part of. Their signup deadline is not yet set. Please check the website or check with the Brentwood Rec for more information in the coming month. 13- and 14-year-olds will be playing with Exeter, while the older groups have the option of playing together as a Brentwood team or joining with the Exeter teams.

Mandatory Coaches' Meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 7:00pm. If you cannot attend for any reason, someone must attend in your place.

Concord Coachmen Chorus Event

Looking for something fun to do over school break? The Concord Coachmen Chorus will be performing at the Brentwood Community Center on **Thursday, February 26 from 7-8pm!** The chorus sings four-part harmony in the "a cappella" style, and will include performances from a quartet as well. Their songs will be upbeat and fun, very family-oriented. All money raised from this event will benefit the Playground at the BCC. Tickets will cost only \$5 each (a great deal for an hour of exciting family entertainment!) and should be purchased in advance at the Recreation or Town Clerk Offices beginning on February 5. Capacity for this event is limited, so please purchase your tickets soon!

New Cribbage Group Forming

There are several Brentwood residents who have shown an interest in beginning a cribbage night at the Community Center. An exact start date and meeting time has not been set yet, but if you would like more information or to attend, please contact Ursula Mackey at ucbm@comcast.net or 642-9178. We hope to begin playing sometime in March.

Bunny Breakfast

This year the pancake breakfast and Easter egg hunt will be the morning of Saturday, April 11. We are still working out the details, so please check the March Newsletter for exact time and more information. Anyone interested in helping out this year with the breakfast or stuffing the eggs, please let us know! We can always use the help...

Renting the Community Center

If you're thinking of renting the Community Center for an event this spring or summer, please don't delay in reserving your date! We're already booking birthdays and receptions into the summer months, so give us a call to discuss your event. Brentwood residents receive a 50% discount off the rental rates!

Check out the Recreation pages on the town website, www.brentwoodnh.gov. Necessary forms are usually there to be downloaded for your convenience, as well as other important information about current programs and events.

Jessica Pimental, Recreation Director

642-6400 ext. 20

recreation@brentwoodnh.gov

Office hours: Mon. & Thurs. 9-2pm

Tues. noon-8pm

Brentwood Gardeners

The Brentwood Gardeners' next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 25, 7:00 pm at the Community Center**. The much-anticipated January program on creating bonsai plants had to be postponed by a snow and ice storm. It has fortunately been rescheduled for the February meeting. Wayne Jope, of the Great Hill Horticultural Foundation in Hampton Falls, will lead the session. Members who wish to actually create a bonsai garden were asked to notify President Diantha Wade and bring \$15.00 for the materials. Any who wish to add their names to the list should call Diantha at 772-5217.

Since January is the month when Gardeners pay their annual membership dues, those fees will also be collected at the February meeting. The dues are \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 for a family membership. New members are always welcome! The programs to be offered in the coming months are an excellent reason for residents and friends to join the Gardeners:

March 25: Brentwood's wetlands and how to garden around wetlands.

April 22: Starting your own vegetable garden – speaker Elizabeth Brink, UNH Extension Service

May 27: A program on peonies.

For information or questions please call Diantha Wade at 772-5217.

The Mailing Crew for January

Many thanks on behalf of the community to the following Cub Scouts and their parents who assembled the January "Newsletter" for mailing: Jim Clements, Kathy Clements, Michael Clements, Ryan Diaz, Sarah David, Ray Drury, Conor Drury, Trevor Drury, Matt Eaton, Michele Eaton, Charlie Eaton, Kevin Eaton, David Elliott, Kris Johnston, Tom Keenan, Phyllis Ryan, Tom Ryan, Noah Ryan, Jonah Ryan, Sandy Seekamp, Liam Seekamp.

Linda Rousseau, Editor

Achievement

Josh Thom, a freshman in Communications, made the Dean's List in his first semester at Keene State College. He is the son of Greg and Julie Thom of Flanders Drive.

A Donation to the Trails Fund

Thank you to all the friends and neighbors who donated to the Wild Bill Memorial fund in memory of Bill Kutsch, formerly of Lucas Pond Road, in Northwood. The fund, at long last, has been donated to the Trails Committee of Brentwood for maintaining the open spaces that Bill loved. Thank you for caring so much, and the Trails Committee said to thank you as well. I like to think he touches these places in spirit as he did in life.

Bonnie Gunther
Old Gordon Road

Food Safety During and After a Power Outage

Note: Thanks to Alan Clough for bringing this article to our attention. It comes from the online newsletter of the UNH Extension Service, <http://extension.unh.edu>. Readers will find much more information there now about managing in an emergency. – Editor

Cleaning out the refrigerator and checking your freezer for the safety of its contents don't often rise to the top of your to-do list, but an extended power outage is a good time for these tasks.

These food safety tips can help:

Keep appliance thermometers in the refrigerator and freezer at all times. Meat, poultry, fish, and eggs need to be refrigerated at or below 40 degrees F. Frozen foods need to be stored at or below 0 degrees F. Digital, dial, or instant-read food thermometers and appliance thermometers will help you know if the food is at safe temperatures.

If you don't have an appliance thermometer, you can insert an instant-read food thermometer into the food and check its temperature.

Keeping an appliance thermometer in the freezer will help you evaluate the safety of frozen foods. When the power comes back on, check the thermometer. If the temperature reads 40 degrees F or below, the food is safe and may be refrozen.

If you don't have a thermometer in the freezer, check each package of food individually. Food is safe to refreeze if it still contains ice crystals. Partial thawing and refreezing may reduce the quality of some food, but the food will remain safe to eat.

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature. The refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened. A full freezer will hold the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.

Brentwood School Board**Did You Know?**

Did you know that we hired a new food service director and assistant last year to improve cafeteria efficiency and quality? The director is Tim Harrington, and our on-site assistant is Tammy Heath. Here are some of the positive changes they have made: Friendly and welcoming kitchen with tours and demos. In the 2006-2007 school year (prior to the change) about 140-150 children participated in the lunch program each day. In 2007-2008, 180-200 bought lunches, and as of the middle of November 2008, 1,300 more lunches had been served over the previous year!

The most popular lunch day is Friday with pizza from Dominoes or Front Row (about 240 lunches). In second place are the baked chicken nuggets (230). The food choices are much better, too: healthy side dishes like fruit, raw veggies and dip, lettuce, spinach and Caesar salad, and soups made from scratch.

The lunch price increased slightly this year from \$2.00 to \$2.25 and snacks also increased to approximately \$.75. The snack menu includes fresh fruit, sunflower seeds, and homemade low-fat granola. Muffins are baked fresh and include pumpkin and apple-cinnamon, and the cafeteria pops over 110 bags of Swasey popcorn on Friday mornings.

This year, with the support of the school board and the administration, we have instituted a new computer system which enables the students to move much more quickly through the lunch line. This system also helps to maintain the confidentiality of free and reduced-price diners. There is no need for separate snack and lunch money now, and cash cannot be taken out of the account. If you have questions about your child's account, you can request an account history with all of the meal transactions recorded. At our house we frequently buy lunch at school but prefer to bring most snacks from home as this is quite economical. With the computerized system, parents can pay, weekly, monthly or yearly.

Swasey is now included in the school breakfast program through the state. The food service managers also work very hard to reduce waste and cost and thus try to get a quick count in the morning from the classrooms of how many students will be ordering hot lunches that day.

Even with all of the changes we made last year, the food service division broke even and, despite rising food costs, we hope to do the same this year.

*Liz Faria for the
Brentwood School Board*

Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library

A-Day, otherwise known as Atrium Day, is scheduled for sometime in the middle of February. This is the big day when we will be switching to the new on-line circulation system. Thanks, as usual, go to the Friends of the Library who have purchased this streamlined and updated, as well as much-needed, system for the library.

We are asking all of you who have overdue items to return them as soon as possible. The best we can offer you in return is a big thank-you, but believe us when we say it would be an enormous help for us as we make the big switch.

Our **Friday Night Flicks** this month will be on **February 6 and February 27** at our usual 7:00 p.m. hour. "Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," rated PG and "The Goonies," also rated PG, are this month's choices for Friday night viewing.

The **Ladies Night** at the Movies this month is "Brideshead Revisited," rated PG13. Every lady who badly needs a get-away night is invited to come on **Thursday, February 12** to enjoy the movie, some treats and take a chance on the raffle item.

"Tall Grass," Sandra Dallas's excellent book about the residents of a small Colorado town during World War II, who think the war is far away until they have an internment camp set up in their midst, is this month's pick for discussion. Books are available and we will be meeting on the last Monday of the month, **February 23** and yes, at **7:00 p.m.** as usual.

We have been asked by one of our avid teenage readers to consider a teen book discussion again. Do we have any interest out there? If so, please let us know. We would be happy to oblige.

Also, we have another intriguing proposition for teen girls. Kris Bouchard, who is an experienced art teacher, has offered to present an informal class on the art of expressing oneself in a private journal, using writing and multimedia art. This is a wonderful opportunity and we thank Kris for her generous offer. If you have any interest, please call 642-3355 or e-mail us at bartlettlibrary@comcast.net.

Looking ahead to March, take a good look at the Friends of the Library column and make plans to come to some of the terrific, free programs they sponsor. Remember the library is a free public library...good news during hard times.

Marilyn Morehead, Library Director

Notes from the SAU 16 Superintendent

Labor Day Weekend in 2009

The SAU school calendar for 2009-2010 is in the final stages of approval. Because Labor Day 2009 falls on Monday, September 7, school for students will begin on Monday, August 31, 2009. Teachers will begin their school year at the end of the week before that. Families will have the opportunity for a four-day Labor Day weekend because school will not be held on Friday, September 4, 2009.

New Law for Teenage School Attendance

Beginning on July 1, 2009, students must stay in school until they have either completed their high school education or turned 18 years old. The old law only required students to remain in school until they were 16 years old, and they could withdraw from school with parental permission at that time if a high school diploma had not been earned.

SAU 16 is committed to providing quality educational programs to meet the individual needs of each student. In addition to the outstanding programs and opportunities provided at Exeter High School, our students may also avail themselves of programs in the Exeter Alternative Education program, the Exeter Adult Education program, the Seacoast School of Technology, the Great Bay eLearning Charter School, and the Virtual Learning Academy. School officials remain available to assist parents and students with these important life decisions.

Exeter Adult Education Program

The Exeter Adult Education program continues to offer outstanding options for the community. During the 2007-2008 year 226 students were enrolled in the GED program; 126 in the adult diploma program; and 384 took courses for personal enrichment. Already in the 2008-2009 year there are 119 GED students, 64 adult diploma students and 204 personal enrichment students.

Community Outreach by Our Schools

Late November and December is a time when the SAU 16 community annually reaches out to help those who may need some extra assistance. This year was marked by a significant increase in the outpouring of food baskets for families and collections and donations for area food pantries.

The Cooperative Middle School Outreach Program (coordinated by Martha LaPerle and assisted by Linda Raye and Ed Pease) collected enough food and gift certificates to help 54 families. The Seacoast School of Technology collected over 880 cans and food staples, thanks to the efforts of the Marketing Education students and teacher Sandy Flannigan. A team of Exeter High School students and staff amassed over

6,000 food items that were shared and distributed to local food pantries. The PTO in East Kingston held a very successful food drive that resulted in multiple boxes of food goods.

School Board members and office staff personnel around the SAU also joined this important effort to help others. I am grateful, on behalf of the entire community, to each person who was able to contribute to this continuously important effort.

The School Boards of SAU 16

Did you know that SAU 16 is composed of eight different school boards that include a total of 33 different seats? Three towns – East Kingston, Kensington and Newfields – have boards of three members each. Three towns – Brentwood, Exeter and Stratham – have boards of five members each. And the Coop Board, which includes at least one member from each of the six towns, has nine members. The Joint Board oversees the entire SAU operation and includes all 33 Board members.

Please note that this does not include the Governing Boards of the Seacoast School of Technology, the Great Bay eLearning Charter School, or Seacoast Learning Collaborative, each of which receive support from SAU 16.

Mike Morgan

Superintendent of Schools, SAU 16

Historical Note

The Abenakis had an ingenious method of preserving their surplus meat. They would cut the meat of a large animal into very thin slices, place them between layers of bark on which the hunter would stamp in order to extract all, or as much as possible, of the blood. Next it would be smoked over a wood fire, preferably maple (birch was not good, pine was gummy, and oak because of the tannic acid was to be avoided).

Once the meat was sufficiently smoked and hardened, it was pulverized, and the meat flour was then cooked with aromatic plants and wild rice (found along the river and in Spruce Swamp).

"Brentwood's 225 Years," page 27

Copies of this book as well as the "Brentwood Program and Historical Souvenir" book of the 1992 250th Anniversary, and the "Notes and References to Brentwood's 225 Years" (which gives the current street addresses for the old buildings named) are all available at the Historical Society Museum for \$5.00 each. To request copies contact Alma Vahey, President of the Historical Society, 679-8635.

Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast

Applebee's in Epping
Saturday, February 28, 8 – 10 a.m.
Lots of Raffles and lots of fun!
\$7.00 per person

To help Linnea Lemerise, high ranking swimmer on the Exeter Swim Team, travel to Austria this summer to compete in the Youth Friendship Games.

Club UnderALLS TEEN DANCE CLUB

Club UnderALLS welcomed in the new year on January 9, 2009 with a very low turnout. We are hoping things pick back up in February.

The next mailing of post cards will be the first week in February. If you would like to be on our mailing list send an email to info@clubunderalls.com.

The 2009 Calendar:

January 9	February 13	March 13	April 10
May 22	June 19	July 17	August 14
Sept 18	Oct 16	Nov 20	Dec 18

Be sure to check out the photos from previous dances on the website. Birthday Parties welcome. Call Michele for details and special pricing. Club Memberships and T-shirts are available for purchase.

If there are any questions feel free to contact Michele at 603-702-1523, email at info@clubunderalls.com or check out the website www.clubunderalls.com.

Thanks to all of the parents, grandparents and siblings for driving your teens to Club UnderALLS. We truly appreciate your support.

Michele Whitehouse

Valentine Buffet

The 12th Annual Valentine Buffet will be held on **Saturday, February 14** from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at **Pilgrim Church UCC**, located on Route 111A in Brentwood.

This delightful dinner will feature fresh carved ham, turkey and roast beef, a salad bar, and a variety of homemade desserts. In addition, **FREE BABYSITTING** for children ages 3-10 is offered. The children will be served dinner, watch a movie, and enjoy other activities on the lower floor of the church while you are upstairs enjoying your meal.

All of this makes the **Valentine Buffet** a great midwinter event. Tickets will be sold only at the door and are \$10.00 per person. If you wish to reserve ahead of time, you may call the church at 778-3189.

Kim Lord for the Pilgrim Church UCC

Help with the Brentwood Newsletter?

The Newsletter Committee extends a hearty thank-you to Maureen Menter, who has been a much appreciated partner since 2003 but at this time needs to withdraw from the committee and make some changes in her life schedule.

The Committee is now looking for someone who would be interested and willing to help share the monthly chores involved with getting the issue to and from the printer and to the post office. This is separate from the work done by the neighborhood mailing teams. If you are interested, please call Linda Rousseau, editor, at 772-4534 for more details. Thank you.

Linda Rousseau

Sympathy

Sincere sympathy and friendship are extended by their friends and neighbors to the family of William B. Buck of Northrup Drive, who passed away on January 19.

Born and raised in Greenfield, Massachusetts, he graduated from Boston University and worked for many years for Digital Equipment Corp. He was also a consultant for Eastman Kodak Professionals, retiring in 2003. He had lived in Brentwood for the past several years.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 5 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Library
Coop School Deliberative Session – 6:30 pm, Exeter High School
 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 6 **Friday Night Flick** at the Library – 7:00 pm
- Feb. 7 **Public Hearing for Brentwood Town and School Budgets & Bond Issue for new Fire Station**
9:00 am, Swasey School Gym
- Feb. 9 School Board meeting – 6:30 pm, Swasey School library
 Library Trustees – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library
- Feb. 10 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 11 Conservation Commission – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
 Ladies Auxiliary – 7:00 pm, Fire Hall
- Feb. 12 **Ladies Night at the Movies – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library**
- Feb. 13 **Club UnderALLS dance – 7:00-10:00pm, Brentwood Community Center**
- Feb. 14 **Sweetheart Buffet – 5:30-7:00, Pilgrim Church, Middle Road**
- Feb. 16 **Deadline for Baseball Sign-up, T-ball, Rookie, Farm, Softball – 3:00 pm. See p. 7.**
- Feb. 17 Parent Faculty Group – 6:30 pm, Swasey School Library
 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 18 **Candidates Night – 7:30 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building**
- Feb. 19 Planning Board – 7:00 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building
Talk on Tuscany by the Garneaus – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library
- Feb. 20 **Deadline for Little League Sign-up. See p. 7.**
- Feb. 23 Book Discussion Group – 7:00 p.m., Bartlett Library
- Feb. 24 **Basket weaving workshops by Dave Gibson – 9-10:30 and 11-12:30, Bartlett Library**
 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 25 Brentwood Seniors – 11:00 a.m., Community Center – Internat'l, music by the King Sisters
 Brentwood Gardeners – 7:00 p.m., Community Center – Bonsai gardens
- Feb. 26 **Workshop on Comics & Cartooning by Dan Pettiglio – 10-1, Bartlett Library**
Concord Coachmen Chorus – 7:00-8:00 pm, Community Center. Benefit for Playground at BCC.
- Feb. 27 **Friday Night Flick at the Library – 7:00 p.m.**
- Feb. 28 **Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's. See p. 11.**
 Supervisors of the Check List in session – 11-11:30 am, Town Office
- Mar. 2 Trails Committee – 7:00 p.m., Town Office Building
 Firemen's Association – 7:30 pm, Fire house
- Mar. 3 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Mar. 4 Cemetery Trustees – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building
- Mar. 5 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Library
 Planning Board meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building

The public is welcome at all above events

The Brentwood Newsletter
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